

at heart, as well as our own. We believe the first obligation of the Government is toward its wounded veterans, and that the forthcoming economy drives in Congress will deprive worthy disabled veterans of their just consideration if there is also a movement on to pay a pension to all veterans.

"There were about 500,000 men wounded or disabled during the war, and of these only about 345,000 now are receiving compensation. And the total score of war's ravages has not yet been told. Medical authorities estimate that the peak of mental disabilities directly traceable to the war will not be reached until 1948."

#### HOW VETERANS' HOSPITALS ARE MISUSED

Harlan said that many industrial concerns have for several years been evading the responsibility for occupational injuries to their workmen by hospitalizing them in government institutions, regardless of whether or not disabilities were due to World War service.

"We would like to make the public conscious of the difference between a man disabled in the course of a dangerous industrial occupation, and a man disabled in the service of his country," the veteran leader added.

Of the \$800,000,000 a year that is spent for pensions and compensations, less than one-third goes to World War veterans, Harlan said, more than one-third to Spanish War veterans, and most of the rest to veterans of the Civil War.—*Los Angeles Herald Express*, June 18, 1936.

#### TWENTY-FIVE YEARS OF LIFE SAVING

A comparison of deaths in California in 1911 with deaths in 1935 reveals the tremendous savings that have been effected in human lives during the past twenty-five years.

##### INFANTS

In 1911, 10.4 per cent of all deaths in the state were those of infants, but in 1935 the percentage of infant deaths was 5.5.

##### CHILDREN

In 1911, 6.9 per cent of all deaths were in children between the ages of one and fourteen years, while in 1935 the percentage of deaths in this age group was 3.3.

##### YOUNG ADULTS

In 1911, among individuals from fifteen to forty-four years of age the percentage of deaths to the total was 28.2, while in 1935 the percentage of deaths in this age group was 16.9.

##### THE PRODUCTIVE AGE

In 1911 the percentage of deaths among those fifteen to thirty-four years of age was 16.6 per cent, while the percentage among individuals of this age group in 1935 was but 8.9 per cent. Since tuberculosis in 1911 exacted heavy tolls among individuals in this age group, the remarkable reduction in tuberculosis mortality is to a large extent responsible for the savings here recounted.

##### ADULTS

The percentage of deaths among those over forty-five years of age increased in 1935 as compared with 1911, the percentages being 13 and 11.9, respectively. Among those fifty-five to sixty-five years of age the percentage increased from 13.1 in 1911 to 17.3 in 1935, and among those over sixty-five the percentage increased from 29.5 in 1911 to 44 in 1935.

It will be noted that the greatest life saving has occurred in the younger age groups among those under forty-five years of age. The effect has been to postpone the age of death, resulting in higher percentages of deaths among older people. The application of the principles of preventive medicine is largely responsible for this remarkable record. It is estimated that the population of California in 1911 was almost two and one-half million, and in 1935 it is estimated that the population was six and one-quarter million. In 1911, fourteen out of every one thousand persons died. In 1935, 11.5 individuals out of every one thousand population died. Had the 1911 death rate prevailed last year, there would have been 15,686 more deaths than actually occurred.

In commenting on longer and safer lives in the United States the *Illinois Health Messenger* recently stated that

life is safer and longer in America than in any except the Scandinavian countries of Europe. People live from one to two years longer on the average in the United States than in England, France, Germany, or Italy. This is not due alone to a favorable natural environment, but to no small degree from the cultivation and utilization of preventive medicine.

The following table gives the total numbers of deaths in California by age groups and percentages of the total for the years 1911 and 1935:

Total Deaths by Age Groups				
	1911		1935	
	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent
Under 1 .....	3,528	10.4	3,973	5.5
1-4 .....	1,405	4.1	1,132	1.6
5-14 .....	942	2.8	1,253	1.7
15-24 .....	2,215	6.5	2,531	3.5
25-34 .....	3,432	10.1	3,920	5.4
35-44 .....	3,937	11.6	5,786	8.0
45-54 .....	4,039	11.9	9,391	13.0
55-65 .....	4,447	13.1	12,583	17.3
65+ .....	10,067	29.5	31,931	44.0
	34,012	100.0	72,500	100.0

#### MUSSEL QUARANTINE ORDER ISSUED

The following quarantine order has been issued by Dr. Walter M. Dickie, Director of the California State Department of Public Health:

"A quarantine of all mussels from the ocean shore of California from the southern boundary of Ventura County north to the California-Oregon boundary, with the exception of the bay of San Francisco, is hereby established. All health officers and food inspectors are hereby instructed to enforce the provisions of this quarantine and to prohibit the taking, sale, or offering for sale, of mussels gathered in the district specified. This quarantine order shall be effective for the period May 19, 1936, to September 30, 1936.

"Said action is taken for the preservation of the public health."

This quarantine has been established annually for a number of years. It was issued earlier than usual this year because of two fatal cases of mussel poisoning of residents of Los Angeles who gathered mussels and ate them in Ventura County. Never before have poisonous mussels been discovered so far south in California. Heretofore the quarantine area has extended from Monterey County to the Oregon state line. Since the above quarantine order was issued it has become necessary, however, to include the coastal area of Los Angeles County and investigations are being made as far south as the Mexican border in order to determine if poisonous shellfish may be recovered in southern waters of California.

It will be noted that this quarantine will be effective until the end of September. Ordinarily the peak of toxicity in these shellfish comes about the middle of July. Early in the season the toxicity is comparatively low and after July it diminishes gradually, until by the end of September little or none is discoverable. It is important, however, that the provisions of this quarantine order be observed most carefully during the entire period. Some individuals are more susceptible to this type of poisoning than others, and small quantities of shellfish might produce marked symptoms of severe illness.

#### MORTALITY FROM CERTAIN DISEASES AMONG CHILDREN UNDER FIFTEEN YEARS OF AGE IN CALIFORNIA 1906-1934

By WALTER M. DICKIE, M.D.  
San Francisco

##### PART III\*

Among children under one year there are 456 deaths during the four-year period 1906-1909, with a rate of 309.7 per 100,000 group population. There has been a steady decrease in rates throughout remaining periods until 1930-

\* Part I of this article was printed in the May issue of CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE, page 454; Part II, in the June issue, page 542.